

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 12, 2014

In Attendance: Beth Emery, Howard Reid, Laura Balm, Cindi Perugini, David Sadler, Amy Vallincourt, Ron Krom, Marco Gaylord (Director of Operations for the Middletown School System)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Many committee members did not review the minutes of the previous meeting. Acceptance was tabled until the June meeting.

Community Events Calendar:

Kate did not attend the meeting. Subject tabled for next meeting.

Bike racks: Kid City and Russell Library:

Beth reported she spoke with Geen Thazhampallath, Middletown Parking Director who suggested the committee send letters to Mayor Drew and the Director of the Library.

Mayor Drew stopped by to thank the committee members for all their hard work and dedication to the Complete Streets effort and remind us he is supportive of this program. He stated it would be no problem to get bike racks for the Library and Kid City parking lots. He suggested to send an email to him regarding costs.

Action Plan:

Item #4: Wesleyan Hills Project:

Committee members should begin considering areas within the scope of the project for bike signage i.e. Share the road, Bike Route etc. Continue discussion at next meeting.

Suggestion to ask John to speak to Tom Nigasanti to determine where road bond money is currently being used and locate suitable streets in those areas.

Item #6: River COG

Howard informed the committee the study of the Lower Valley River COG railroad usage is complete and available for review on the website. The focus of the study was the area from Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam to north of Maromas.

Item #7: Bike Friendly Community application:

Beth provided a copy of the application from the League of American Bicyclists regarding information needed to become a Bike Friendly Community. The application is very extensive and extremely time consuming. Many resources will be needed to complete the project which must be submitted by the City of Middletown. Beth mentioned that TREK is a huge supporter of this project and it may be fruitful to include Pedal Power (dealer of TREK) to become involved.

Beth will forward the link so that committee members can review the application and begin focusing on a strategy.

Family Cycling Event:

Ron reported the event is progressing well. The bike route has been approved by the Middletown Police Department and we will be assisted by several uniformed officers at specified intersections. He provided a copy of the prepared brochure and handed out a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Discussion regarding what to have available at the CS table: copy of Master Plan, something with our logo: brochures, suggestion box, mission statement, link to Action Plan, something engaging for the community, list of accomplishments for the public to review.

Traffic Count:

Dave stated all but 2 slots are filled. Second volunteer and alternate needed for Saturday 5/31/14: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, and Tuesday 6/3/14: 4:45 to 6:00 pm. David stated he signed himself up for both shifts. The count will take place rain or shine unless the weather becomes a safety issue.

Bike Safety Education Event:

Beth stated due to her busy schedule she will not be able to conduct a kid's bike safety clinic this spring.

Mattabessett Trail:

Painting of stripes and grass plantings should be complete soon. A possible June opening ceremony is being considered, however no specific date has been set.

Woodrow Wilson School Outreach: Laura and Kate

Laura reported there are approximately 78 walkers at the school but potentially there could be 240 with the proper infrastructure. The day she spoke with the principal a student was struck by a car in the vicinity of the school. Crossing is poor, few bikers. She will put together a detailed report for the committee.

New Business:

John will attend the meeting of the Recreation and Community Services Commission on June 12, 2014. Other members are encouraged to attend.

Marco Gaylord: Email: gaylordm@mpsct.org

Mr. Gaylord is the Director of Operations for the Middletown School System, Safety Committee, and Designated State Program Director for the Safe Routes to School.

Mr. Gaylord was extremely enthusiastic about the committee's accomplishments and goals. He is willing to assist the committee in any way he can.

Discussion: several members spoke of their visits to the schools and the principals concerns regarding sidewalks, crosswalks and the safety of the students. Mr. Gaylord is in the process of arranging evacuation drills for the schools. He stated the schools visited by CS members are of concern because they fall within the evacuation program and any infrastructure issues will impede the process. He agreed sidewalk repairs can be done quickly and probably inexpensively. He has an interest in identifying where sidewalks are needed and if repaired, how that would increase walkers and save transportation funds.

Howard discussed Bielefield School area and the influence of the CS regarding funding for sidewalks and bus transportation (MAT) on Saybrook Road. He further noted the principal would like to have the neighborhood behind the school connected to the school area, possibly in the form of a multi-use path.

Howard will provide Mr. Gaylord with the South Windsor contact.

May is Bike month, October 8, 2014 international walk to school day.

Laura volunteered to gather committee school outreach reports and compile them for Mr. Gaylord.

Include in agenda for next meeting:

CS to revisit the list of agencies and committees originally discussed to determine if there is a necessity to reach out to new agencies. Retain contact with all agencies.

Next meeting: June 9, 2014, 7 pm Council Chambers